



St. Jerome Journal

December 2011

Advent



Preparation for Christmas takes place during December, in a time of growing darkness. This preparation is called Advent. The word means "coming". In this mysterious season of waiting, with John the Baptist, we muster the strength to struggle against injustice. With expectant Mary we await the holy birth. Advent traditions reflect a spirit of expectation and, therefore, unfold gradually.



The custom of an Advent Wreath began in the 16th century in Germany and are an ancient symbol of victory. Advent wreaths symbolize the victory of Christ's coming and the glory of His Birth. There are four candles in the Advent Wreath, representing the four weeks of Advent. The three purple candles represent our waiting, repentance, hoping and longing expectation for the arrival of Christ. The pink candle representing the third week, reminds us that time of Christ's arrival is approaching fast, and we must prepare!



During Advent people wait once again in darkness for the coming at the end of time, and his special coming in every moment of Grace.

*December's virtue is **Charity**.*

As we enter the season of Advent to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, it is rather suitable that this month's virtue is CHARITY. Many of us are already engaging in the mad rush to purchase gifts to put under the tree on the 25th, but let us be mindful of the fact that charity is not always about giving material things. Our quote for the month is "Where charity and love are, God is there". As St. Thomas Aquinas described it "Charity is friendship first with God and secondly with all who belong to God." (2a2ae,25,4). How can we practice charity and generosity in our community without necessarily giving material things? This month at St. Jerome School, we will be demonstrating charity by collecting canned pasta sauce for our local food bank.

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We are on the web: <http://www.ncdsb.on.ca/>

Junior Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2012-13 school year will be held at all Northeastern Catholic District School Board elementary schools on: Monday, January 16th, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Junior Kindergarten - Children must be 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2012.



Parents/Guardians should bring the following documents when registering their child:

- Birth & Baptismal Certificates
- Immunization Record
- Health Card

Please spread the word...

Student Safety

Snow and Ice

When the cool months arrive and snow and ice on the ground plentiful, we all like to play in it and with it. Throwing snowballs and sliding on ice is fun. However, as much fun as it is, snow and ice, can be very dangerous when lots of people are in a small area. Most student injuries happen during the winter time. In order for our school to be as safe as possible, the school must be that snow stays on the ground – no snowballs, kicking snow or any other activity with snow or ice that could be harmful. Please talk to your child about this at home.



Sign Out Procedures

A reminder that students must always be signed out by an adult if they are leaving the school property throughout the school day, to attend appointments. When the student arrives back at school, they are required to sign back noting their arrival time.

Fund-raising

Our **MacMillan's** fund-raiser of frozen foods was successful in raising \$ 3,314.75 towards our student funds.



Cards by Me raised \$ 540.20 and our young artists did such a great job! The **Evening with Santa** was great fun and generated \$ 1,883.18 in profits. Thank you for your participation and all of your fund-raising efforts.

Advent

During **Advent**, St. Jerome School has been collecting non-perishable food items which will be donated to the food bank. The theme for this year is: **Canned Pasta Sauce**. Thank you for your participation and support towards the less fortunate.



Our **Advent Celebrations** continue every Monday, December 12th and December 19th at 12:45 p.m. in the gymnasium. Everyone is welcome to attend these activities.

We are on the web: <http://www.ncdsb.on.ca/>

Fire Chief for a Day

Luke Toupin-Sanford was the winner of the KL Fire Department Fire Prevention Week Contest. Luke's winning family escape plan allowed him to be the Fire Chief for the day on Tuesday, December 7th. Congratulations Luke!



Subway Lunch



As part of our Healthy Foods awareness program we are offering a Subway Lunch to our students on Wednesday, December 21st. Please make sure that you have completed and turned in your order form.

Spirit Days!

Students are invited to hop out of bed and wear their **PJ's** to school on **Monday, December 19th**. Our Grade 3 students will be participating in "Polar Express" activities throughout the day.

On **Wednesday, December 14th** students are asked to participate in "**Red & Green**" Spirit Day. Everyone is asked to wear red and/or green clothing to show some Christmas Spirit!

Christmas Concert

The students of St. Jerome School are working diligently on our annual **Christmas Concert**. The concert will take place on **Wednesday, December 21st at 1:00 p.m.** Make sure to mark your calendar and we hope that you can join us!



Milk and Pizza...

The **Milk Program** will start-up on **Monday, January 16th, 2012**. Again, we regret that will be unable to provide students with milk from Monday, January 9th, 2012 to Friday, January 13th, 2012. **Pizza Days** will resume on **Friday, January 20th, 2012**.

Snow Days

Please listen to the radio or check our website with respect to bus cancellations on inclement weather days. Our school will remain open but the programs available at school may be modified. Parents are asked to use discretion whether or not their child should attend school, and are reminded that once buses are cancelled they are cancelled for the whole day, so parents are responsible for transportation at the end of the day. Also, please note that Hot Lunch and Pizza Days are cancelled on snow days as well.

Christmas Break



The last day of school is Friday, December 23rd. School will resume on Monday, January 9th, 2012. We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

